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FRANCE.

The following cablegram has been received from Passed Assistant Surgeon Nydegger:

MARSEILLES, *December 11, 1899.*

Smallpox epidemic at Marseilles.

NYDEGGER.

GERMANY.

*Precautions against plague at Bremen—Destruction of rats.*

BREMEN, *November 24, 1899.*

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 17th ultimo, relative to the inadequate disinfecting chamber in the Lloyd Hall at this place, I take pleasure in informing you that the North German Lloyd Company has decided, as a temporary measure, to supply the chamber with the air-exhausting appliance recommended by you.

They intend to place an entirely new disinfecting chamber, supplied with all modern improvements, in their new hall, which will be completed within two years.

In this connection I inclose for your information a translation of a circular which has been issued by direction of the medical commission of the Bremen senate, calling attention to the danger from rats as disseminators of bubonic plague.

Respectfully,

GEORGE H. MURPHY,  
*Vice-Consul.*

[Inclosure.]

BREMEN WAREHOUSE COMPANY,  
*Bremen, November 14, 1899.*

*To all lessees:*

1. By direction of the medical commission of the senate we have to inform you that, in view of the recent spreading of the bubonic plague (pest), it is important to destroy as far as possible the rats in the warehouses of the free port.

Suitable rat traps will be supplied by us upon application to such lessees as may be in need of them.

2. As it is known that rats are easily affected by the plague and aid the spread of the disease, in combating the danger of the introduction of plague it is of great importance that the presence of sick rats be ascertained as speedily as possible. Experience proves that such rats almost always leave their holes and die in exposed places.

We beg you, therefore, to call the attention of your employees to this matter, and to instruct them that rats found dead or dying in the open, unless other causes of death are apparent, must be delivered to the Bacteriological Institute, as provided in the accompanying precautionary regulations.

BREMEN WAREHOUSE COMPANY.  
HOERNECKE, *President.*

INSTRUCTION AS TO THE DISPOSITION TO BE MADE OF RATS FOUND DEAD IN EXPOSED PLACES.

1. *Reason for delivery of dead rats to the Bacteriological Institute.*—As is known, rats are very susceptible to the plague and transmit the contagion to each other by touching and gnawing the dead rats. From the excrement and urine of rats infected with plague the contagion can also be extended to human beings.

It is, therefore, necessary to give special attention to any increase in the number of deaths among the rats.

Rats infected with plague abandon their usual habits in most cases so far as to leave their holes and die in the open.

If a rat be found dead or dying in an exposed place, unless other causes of death are apparent, the case must be regarded as suspicious and a careful investigation will be necessary.